

MAY 15 1961

Approved For Release 2000/06/30 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000400070019-7

STATINTL

U-2 Pilot Powers Denies He Plans to Stay in Soviet

CPYRGHT

POUND, Va., May 14 (AP) May 1 and planned to stay in the Soviet Union.

American U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers has denied categorically reports that he plans to remain in the Soviet Union when he is released from prison there.

"I am a citizen of the United States and am proud to be one," Powers said in a letter to his parents here. "I might not like all the policies of the U. S. Government, but I feel sure there are many millions of people in the United States who disagree with them also."

Powers' letter was released by his father, Oliver Powers, today.

The U2 pilot was sentenced to 10 years in prison last August by a Russian court.

The letter was in response to a newspaper clipping sent to the younger Powers by his father early last month, in which a London reporter was quoted as saying the U2 pilot would be released about

I cannot imagine where the correspondent, John Mossman (Moscow correspondent for the London Daily Mail) got his information unless he invented it himself. You may rest assured that I will return home, where I belong and want to be, as soon as I am released. Remaining here has never entered my mind," the pilot wrote.

CPYRGHT